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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Monday 3rd February 2025
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New MCC Commissioner on surprise city rounds

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, who assumed office on Jan. 27, is working to ensure the smooth functioning of the civic body, improve civic responsibility, boost public engagement, and complete pending projects on time.

Through daily surprise inspections and regular visits to Zonal Offices, Wards and various sections of the MCC Main Office on Sayyaji Rao Road, Asif has directed officers to streamline administrative processes while also managing routine waste disposal tasks.

This morning, he visited areas including M.G. Road, Gundurao Nagar, Agrahara, JSS Hospital vicinity and Chamundipuram, where he observed the indiscriminate dumping of garbage on roadsides. He immediately instructed his officers to clean up the mess.

Photos of the waste were sent to jurisdictional Health Officers and Environmental Engineers, urging swift action.

During his interactions with residents, the general public, and Ward Officers, Shaikh Tanveer Asif emphasised on the importance of waste segregation at source, urging everyone to avoid dumping waste on the streets.

(See MCC on page 6)

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif** (second from left) **seen during his inspection rounds this morning on Uttaradi Mutt Road, near Agrahara and on the busy M.G. Road accompanied by MCC Deputy Commissioner (Development) K.J. Sindhu, Executive Engineer Mahesh and other MCC officials.

Shifting of KSRTC Sub-Urban Bus Stand

Samithi intensifies opposition; seeks better existing infra utilisation

Mysuru KSRTC Suburban Bus Stand Ulisi Horata Samithi Convenor C. Narayanagowda addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan in city this morning as** (from left) **Samithi Vice-Presidents Ravikumar, D. Srihari and B.S. Prashanth, Samithi President Ravishastri, Vice-President K.B. Lingaraju and Secretary C.A. Jayakumar look on.

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (MTY&DM)- The debate over the Government's proposal to shift KSRTC Sub-Urban Bus Stand from B.N. Road to Bannimantap continues to heat up, with Mysuru KSRTC Sub-Urban Bus Stand Ulisi Horata Samithi strongly opposing the move.

The Samithi has called on the Government to abandon the plan and has intensified its opposition through public campaigns.

At a press conference held at Patrakarthara Bhavan this morning, Samithi President Ravishastri emphasised the importance of retaining the bus stand at its current location. He criticised proposed shifting to Bannimantap, which is set to cost Rs. 120 crore and pointed out the underutilisation of other bus stands built with JNNURM funds, such as those at Sathagalli, Naidunagar and Kuvempunagar.

Ravishastri argued that the shifting would cause significant inconvenience to commuters, requiring them to travel an additional 10-15 kms to reach their destinations. He highlighted that the new bus stand would be far from residential areas along Nanjangud, H.D. Kote, Bogadi, Manandavadi and Hunsur roads.

Ravishastri also noted that shifting the bus stand would harm local businesses, particularly street vendors, who would lose customers due to the relocation. He pointed out that people arriving from public offices, tourist spots and other areas would face significant inconvenience, wasting time and money on cabs and autos.

(See SAMITHI on page 6)

SITES FOR SALE
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Ready to Build
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With 75% Bank Loan
Yesh 9538885514

STAR OF MYSORE

SPECIAL ISSUE

Star of Mysore is completing **47** years of service on **16th February 2025** and entering **48th** year of publication. As in the past, this year too we will be publishing a Special Issue.

We request our advertisers and patrons to release their advertisements before **5th February** to facilitate printing as per schedule.

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 3rd February 2025

Kodava Deenabandhu Trust presents student scholarships

Mysuru, Feb. 3- Kodava Deenabandhu Charitable Trust, Mysuru, presented scholarships to needy students at a function held at Sree Cauvery Educational Institutions and PU College auditorium at Kuvempunagar in the city recently.

In all, 29 needy students of Kodava community studying from 11th std. to higher education were encouraged by the Trust by presenting student scholarships for the current academic year.

President of Mysuru Kodava Deenabandhu Charitable Trust Kattera A. Kariappa presided. Hon. Secretary Pattada A. Jayakumar, Treasurer Wg. Cdr. (retd.) Chendrimada G. Madappa, senior donor Paleyanda Karumbaiah, Trustees Pattamada Shanthi Ganapathy, Chambanda Somanna, Kallichanda Mudduraj, parents and students were present on the occasion.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

TURNING PROBLEMS INTO POSSIBILITIES: *Don't say dear God I have a big problem. But say dear problem I have a big God."*

We all face problems in our lives. Some are small and easy to solve, while others are big and complex. Sometimes, we feel overwhelmed by the challenges we encounter and we lose hope and faith. We may think that our problems are too big for us to handle and that God is too far away to help us. We may say things like "Dear God, I have a big problem" or "Why me, God?" or "God, where are you?"

But what if we change our perspective and attitude? What if we look at our problems as opportunities to grow and learn? What if we trust that God is bigger than any problem we face and that He is always with us and for us? What if we say things like "Dear problem, I have a big God" or "Thank you, God, for this challenge" or "God, I know you are with me"?

This simple shift in our words can make a huge difference in our lives. It can help us to overcome our fears and doubts and to face our problems with courage and confidence. It can also help us to experience God's presence and power and to witness His miracles and blessings. It can transform our problems into possibilities and our trials into testimonies.

There are many inspiring examples of people who have adopted this positive and faith-filled approach to their problems.

Walt Disney was a poor and struggling artist who faced many rejections and failures. He even lost the rights to his first successful cartoon character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. But he did not give up on his dreams. He created Mickey Mouse and went on to build a media empire that has brought joy and magic to millions of people.

Hellen Keller was a deaf and blind girl who faced many obstacles and limitations in her life. She could have lived in isolation and despair, but she chose to overcome her challenges and to pursue her education and passions. These are just some of the many examples of people who have faced big problems with a big God. They have shown us that nothing is impossible with God and that He can use our problems for our good and His glory. —*T. S. Karthik in Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

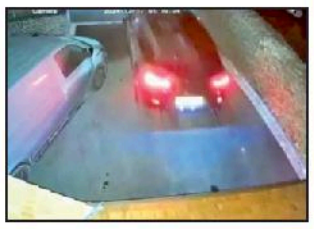
Influencer vandalises public property, gets jailed

Bogota: Colombian influencer Daneidy Barrera Rojas, known as Epa Colombia, was sentenced to five years behind bars after filming herself vandalising public property during a protest.

Colombia was rocked by violent protests against the government of former President Iván Duque. It was during this time that popular influencer Daneidy Barrera Rojas posted a video of herself vandalising a public transportation station in Bogota, smashing windows, card readers and access registers with a hammer.

The video quickly went viral, getting her tons of attention online, but it also became the topic of an investigation that culminated in an initial prison sentence of three and a half years for property damage and disruption of public transportation. Epa Colombia later apologised for her actions, but that didn't help much, as the Prosecutor's Office appealed the sentence and secured a 5-year prison sentence.

Man gets car stolen after buying it



Warwickshire: An Englishman who had his luxury SUV stolen from his driveway less than 60 hours after driving it home claims the dealership assured him that the vehicle was "unstealable".

John, a 45-year-old man from Warwickshire, bought a £183,000 (2,27,000 dollars) Range Rover 2024 SV Edition One from a dealership in Coventry on Dec 14 last year.

John knew that it would attract attention in a country where a number of luxury vehicle thefts have been increasing in recent years, but he claims the dealership told him that the car featured a security upgrade that made it unstealable.

Less than 60 hours later, John's car was stolen from his driveway.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Vaccination in pregnancy is important for tetanus, also consider Influenza vaccine to prevent bad Respiratory infections

By Dr. Shaheen Akthar, Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Maaladharis' Padayatra from Mysuru to Dharmasthala

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (GA&TRR)- Hundreds of Maaladharis will start their padayatra to the holy town of Dharmasthala from Kote Anjaneyaswamy temple premises in Mysuru on Feb.17.

The padayatra is being organised by Kuduma Sri Kshethra Dharmasthala Padayatra Seva Trust, said Trust president M.K. Mahadev at press conference held at Pathrakartara Bhavan in the city recently.

On Feb.17, hundreds of Maaladharis will embark on a padayatra at 9.30 pm after offering puja at the temple at 7 pm and reach Dharmasthala on Feb. 26, the auspicious day of Maha Shivarathri.

Food will be provided to the pilgrims throughout their journey. In case of health issues, ambulance services have been provided as a precautionary measure at several places by the Dharmasthala authorities.

Anybody who is above the age of 15 years may participate in this Dharmasthala padayatra, said Mahadev. Concrete Rajanna, Chandrashekar, Kumaresh, Rajamma and Chinnaswamy were present at the press meet.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **119.40 feet**	Today's level **2,279.11 feet**	Today's level **2,836.82 feet**
Last year's level **91.86 feet**	Last year's level **2,272.52 feet**	Last year's level **2,831.62 feet**
Yesterday's level **119.64 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,279.26 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,836.78 feet**
Today's Inflow **205 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **88 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **178 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **3,508 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *A pigeon's navigational skills are astoundingly complex and they can fly up to 50 mph and can travel upto 500 miles in one day.*
- *Pigeons drink water by using their beaks like straws.*
- *A female pigeon is called a "hen."*
- *Pigeon babies are called "squabs" or "squeakers."*
- *Pigeons have excellent memories. They can recognise themselves in puddles and mirrors.*
- *Pigeons have excellent hearing and vision, and they see in ultraviolet colour.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Kumar was getting his hand read by a Palmist.

Kumar: *Tell me in which town I shall die?*

Palmist: *What good will that do to you?*

Kumar: *Then I will not go near it!!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 87.08
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 107.00
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.71
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.22

VOICE OF THE READER

Drainage overflow forming filthy pond on Shyadanahalli Main Road

Sir,

I am writing this letter on behalf of all the residents of Shyadanahalli, Naganahalli Post, Mysuru, to bring to notice of the authorities concerned, the MP and the MLA of this Constituency that it has been more than 15 days since overflow of UGD and drain water on the main road of Shyadanahalli leading to a lot of inconvenience to all the residents and road users of this area.

In spite of repeated complaints to the respective Naganahalli Panchayat Development Officer, the authorities are not really serious in resolving this issue. It appears as if there is a filthy pond instead of a regular road.

I request the MP and MLA representing this area to direct the PDO to act on a war-footing to address and resolve this problem as it may lead to serious health hazards of infectious diseases if it is not resolved on an urgent basis.

I cannot understand what is holding them back from delaying in addressing this issue which is very serious in nature.

I hope and expect the authorities concerned to act sensibly in resolving this serious problem faced by the residents of Shyadanahalli on an urgent basis.

—M. A. Kishore
Green Valley Layout
Naganahalli Post
23.1.2025

CPR Training Programme held for Rotaractors

Mysuru, Feb. 3- A CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Training Programme was conducted for Rotaractors of Chamundi Zone at NIE First Grade College in city recently.

Rotaract NIE First Grade College and Rotaract Mysore South East hosted the event.

The event was led by IPP Rtr. Rtn. R. Prajwal, Zonal Rotaract Representative of Chamundi Zone, Rotaract District 3181.

The CPR Programme Session was taken by Dr. Divya Shree of University of Mysore and Satya Raj, Zonal Manager & Senior Trainer of Jeeva Raksha Mysore.

More than 60 Rotaractors were part of the CPR Training Session. CPR is an emergency life-saving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple the chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

Wedding at Rashtrapati Bhavan complex for first time on Feb. 12

New Delhi, Feb. 3 (Agencies)- In a first, the Rashtrapati Bhavan is all set to host a wedding in its complex on Feb. 12. President Droupadi Murmu greenlighted the celebrations because she was highly impressed by the conduct and service of the person getting married.

According to media reports, when President Murmu learnt about this person's marriage, she arranged for the ceremony at the Mother Teresa Crown Complex in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Reports suggest that the wedding will involve only a limited number of relatives and friends. However, there is no official notice from Rashtrapati Bhavan yet.

A female Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer, Poonam Gupta, gained President Droupadi Murmu's favour to become the first person to get married at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The CRPF Assistant Commandant is currently posted as a PSO at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

According to media reports, Poonam will marry Avneesh Kumar, an Assistant Commandant posted in Jammu and Kashmir on Feb. 12. The event will have a select guest list. The necessary formalities to grant entry permissions are underway.

CRPF Assistant Commandant Poonam Gupta had led the CRPF's all-women contingent during the 74th Republic Day Parade. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a Master's in English Literature and a B.Ed from Jiwaji University, Gwalior.

In 2018, she secured the 81st rank in UPSC CAPF exam. She has previously served in a Naxal-affected area of Bihar. Poonam is also very active on Instagram, where she shares several pictures in her CRPF uniform.

Passionate about women's issues and empowerment, she frequently motivates students through her posts. Through her Instagram handle, she raises awareness about various campaigns she leads and regularly posts updates about them.

'Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama' to be screened at Parliament on Feb. 15

New Delhi, Feb. 3 (Agencies)- Movie distribution company Geek Pictures on Sunday said it is set to organise a special screening of 1993 Japanese-Indian anime film "Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama" at the Parliament on Feb. 15.

According to a press release, screening will be attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla along with MPs and special invitees.

"We are deeply honoured by this gesture from the Parliament of India. It is a privilege to see our work being recognised at such a prestigious level. This screening is not just a showcase of a film but a celebration of our rich heritage and the timeless story of the Ramayana, which continues to inspire and guide us," Arjun Aggarwal, co-founder of Geek Pictures, said.

The film released in India with new dubs in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu alongside its original English version on Jan. 24 in 4K format. Also distributed in the country by AA Films and Excel Entertainment, the animated film was eyeing an Oct. 18, 2024 release which was rescheduled to make the film accessible in a greater number of cinemas.

This film is directed by Yugo Sako, Ram Mohan and Koichi Sasaki. In its earlier Hindi version, "Ramayan" star Arun Govil voiced the character of Ram, Namrata Sawhney voice starred as Sita and the late Amrish Puri lent his voice to Raavan. Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha served as the narrator. Screenwriter V. Vijayendra Prasad, known for the "Baahubali" franchise, "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" and "RRR", has overseen the creative adaptation of the new versions.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Last date extended

Deputy Director of Handlooms and Textiles Department in a press release has said that the last date for submitting applications for setting up small and medium scale industries from SC/ST businessmen under Special Component Plan (SCP) 04 and TSP SME 02 for the year 2024-25 weavers package has been extended till Feb. 20. Information can be had by visiting the Department of Handloom & Textiles, CTI Building, Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru, during office hours or by calling Ph: 0821-2441353.

Elected as Co-op. Federation member

Chandrashekar

Senior Co-operator of city S. Chandrashekar has been elected as a member of the Governing Council of Bengaluru-based Karnataka State Co-operative Credit Societies Federation Limited, from Mysuru Division. Chandrashekar had earlier served as Janatha Bazar President and MCDCC Bank President at Mysuru. As Janatha Bazar President, he was known for organising 'Akki Mela' (Rice Mela).

Railway Pensioners monthly meeting

The monthly meeting of Railway Pensioners Welfare Association, Mysuru, will be held Feb. 8 at the Association Office at 11.30 am. G.S. Swaminathan, Association General Secretary will address the pensioners regarding the activities of the Association and present status of various Court cases. N. Gopal Krishna, Assistant Personnel Officer, Mysuru, will also address the pensioners. R. Basavaraju, Working President will preside over the meeting and address the pensioners, according to a press release from G.S. Swaminathan Association General Secretary.

Elderly man goes missing

Puttananjappa

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (KS)- A 78-year-old man has gone missing from Chikkahalli village in the taluk and a case has been registered at Alanahalli Police Station. The missing man is Puttananjappa of Chikkahalli village.

Those having any information about the missing man may contact Alanahalli Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418311 or Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

BJP rebels seek divine blessings ahead of Delhi showdown

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (BLU&BCT)- Ahead of their crucial meeting with the BJP high command in New Delhi today (Feb. 3), the faction of BJP rebels led by MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who have openly turned against BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra, performed a special puja at Chamundi Hill Temple yesterday.

Former Ministers Ramesh Jarkiholi and Kumar Bangarappa visited the Hill Temple and offered prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari, seeking divine strength for their political battle. However, rebel team leader Yatnal and former MP Prathap Simha, who is closely associated with the faction, were notably absent, fuelling speculation.

The rebel leaders have scheduled a meeting in Delhi today before formally approaching the high command with their grievances against Vijayendra. As a prelude, Jarkiholi and Bangarappa offered prayers at Chamundi Hill, symbolically preparing for the upcoming political confrontation, sources said.

Former Ministers Kumar Bangarappa and Ramesh Jarkiholi, offering prayers at Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill in city yesterday.

Adding to the intrigue, former Minister Aravind Limbavali, also part of the rebel faction, recently met BJP National President J.P. Nadda. Now, with the entire rebel group set to meet the high command, the situation has taken on added significance.

"We are fed up with Vijayendra's autocratic ways. That's why we are working to replace him," a source from the rebel faction revealed. "We will urge the Central leadership to allow free and fair elections for the State President's post."

The source further stated that before meeting the party's Central leaders, Yatnal and his group will hold discussions with MPs to identify a consensus candidate acceptable to both the 'neutral' faction and the Yatnal camp.

With Karnataka BJP now divided into two factions, all eyes are on how the Central leadership will respond — whether they will pacify the rebels or take a firm stand to quell the growing dissent.

Meanwhile, Vijayendra has met the high command multiple times over the past four months, reportedly lodging complaints against the rebels. However, neither Union Home Minister Amit Shah nor Nadda has issued any warnings to the dissenting leaders, leading to escalating factional conflicts within the State BJP.

It remains to be seen whether the party's top brass will intervene decisively or allow the infighting to fester further.

MUDA 50:50 sites scam

Land-owner's kin refute allegations against MLA G.T. Devegowda

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (BS)- The descendants of the original land-owner linked to the alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority's (MUDA) 50:50 alternative site allotment scheme have denied any involvement of MLA G.T. Devegowda (GTD) or his family in the matter.

This clarification comes in response to a complaint filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna with the Lokayukta Police in Mysuru and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), alleging irregularities against MLA GTD and his son — Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda.

According to Krishna's complaint, Devegowda's nephew Mahendra purchased 2.22 acres of land in Survey No. 81/2 at Devanur village, Mysuru taluk. The complaint alleges that MUDA acquired this land without providing compensation and later allotted 19 sites under the 50:50 scheme as compensation.

Krishna further claimed that MLA GTD influenced MUDA authorities and personally issued a cheque to Mahendra at his residence. Reacting to these allegations, the MLA dismissed the claims and challenged the authorities to conduct a probe.

Family issues clarification

Now, descendants of the original land owner, P. Nagendra and Shivalinga Swamy of Veerangere, have issued a press release refuting the allegations. They stated that 4.03 acres of land — comprising 2.22 acres in Survey No. 81/2 and 1.21 acres in Survey No. 81/1 — originally belonged to their grandfather Basavaiah, son of Lingappa. Ownership details were also reflected in the Right to Tenancy Certificate (RTC).

A partition suit (Case No. 696/2011) was filed by Basavalingappa, Basavaiah's brother, which was later resolved through mutual agreement. As per the Court decree, Basavalingappa inherited the 2.22 acre land in Survey No. 81/2, which was subsequently registered in the names of six family members at the Sub-Registrar's Office on Feb. 10, 2020. A joint khata was then issued for the land.

While MUDA had issued a preliminary acquisition notification under Section 4(1) for this land, the final notification was never issued. MUDA officials had noted this in their records and neither monetary compensation nor alternative sites were granted.

Denying political links

"As we were in debt, we sold the land to Mahendra, son of Channegowda, on July 27, 2020, following discussions led by our elder B. Shankar. All family members were involved in the sale, but we were unaware of any other matters related to the land from that day forward," stated Nagendra and Shivalinga Swamy.

Addressing media reports and the complaint's attached photographs, they categorically denied the allegations against MLA Devegowda and his son. "Neither MLA G.T. Devegowda nor his son G.D. Harish Gowda were involved in the sale of the land," they asserted.

They further clarified that the photographs included in Krishna's complaint were taken when they had invited GTD to their home for their granddaughter's naming ceremony. "As he couldn't attend in the morning, he visited in the evening, during which the photos were taken. These images are now being misused to frame baseless allegations," they added.

Rathasaptami: Mass Surya Namaskara and Surya Yajna tomorrow

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (GA&DM)- As part of Rathasaptami, the Mysuru Yoga Okkuta will perform a mass 108 Surya Namaskara and Surya Yajna in front of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple at the Palace North Gate at 5.45 am tomorrow (Feb. 4).

Announcing this at a press meet here yesterday, Okkuta President K.G. Devaraju said that Palace Board Deputy Director T.S. Subramanya will inaugurate the event, while Okkuta Hon. President Dr. A.S. Chandrashekar will preside and senior Journalist Amshi Prasannakumar will be the chief guest.

Pointing out that more than 500 Yoga enthusiasts from across the city will be taking part in the event, he said that all the participants will be issued a certificate and will be given a T-shirt. He appealed the Yoga enthusiasts to take part in large numbers.

Okkuta office-bearers T. Jalendrakumar, Dr. B.P. Murthy, Shivaprakash and Narasimha were present at the press meet.

वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Union BUDGET 2025-26

Smarter Indirect Taxes, Stronger Economic Growth

Trade Facilitation

- Fixed 2-year timeline for provisional Customs assessment (extendable by 1 year).
- Voluntary compliance: Importers/exporters can declare material facts & pay duty with interest, penalty-free.
- Extended usage period for imported inputs: From 6 months to 1 year; quarterly filing replaces monthly.

Boosting Exports

- Handicrafts export timeline extended to 1 year (+3 months extension).
- Full BCD exemption on Wet Blue leather for domestic value addition.
- BCD on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) reduced from 30% to 5%.
- Extended export window for railway goods imported for repairs: From 6 months to 1 year (+1-year extension).

Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing

- BCD exemption on cobalt powder, 12 critical minerals, lithium-ion battery waste, lead & zinc scrap.
- Textile machinery exemption expanded to more shuttle-less looms.
- BCD exemption on open cell parts for LCD/LED TV panels.
- 10-year BCD exemption extension for shipbuilding & vessel breaking.

Customs & Trade Reforms

- Export credit, MSME support, & cross-border factoring to ease global trade.
- Launch of Bharat TradeNet (BTN) for seamless digital trade documentation & financing.
- Facilitation groups for key supply chains & industries.
- Govt. boost for domestic electronic industry & Industry 4.0 adoption.
- National framework to promote Global Capability Centres in tier-2 cities.

Healthcare & Lifesaving Medicines

- Full BCD exemption on 36 lifesaving drugs & 13 patient assistance programs.
- 6 more medicines added to the concessional 5% BCD list.

CBC 15502/13/0005/2425

SCAN ME

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Kodavas showcase unity on Day-2 of peace march

Eighty-six-year-old Bayavanda Saraswathi Poovaiah joins the peace march on wheelchair.

Ponnampet, Feb. 3 (PS&BCT)- The second day of the 'Kodavame Baalo Padayatra,' a peace march advocating for the rights and identity of the Kodava community this morning, saw an overwhelming response as thousands of Kodavas and Kodava-speaking people marched from T. Shettigeri to Ponnampet to reach Madikeri on Feb. 7.

The march, which began in Kutta yesterday morning, halted at T. Shettigeri before resuming today towards Ponnampet. The event is jointly organised by Akhila Kodava Samaja, Federation of Kodava Samajas, Kodava Sahitya Academy, United Kodava Organisation, Codava National Council, Kodavamera Kondaata, Jabbhoomi Baalo, Kodava Speaking Native Communities Association, Akhila Kodava Samaja Youth Wing and Kodava Riders Club, along with various local community groups.

The 82-km march aims to draw the Government's attention to the challenges faced by the minority Kodava community, particularly concerning identity, existence and security. Participants, including men, women and children dressed in traditional attire, carried banners and placards advocating for their rights and cultural preservation.

As the padayatra progressed, over 20,000 community members joined in along the route, demonstrating widespread support for the cause. Kodava families welcomed marchers with refreshments, reinforcing a sense of unity and shared purpose.

A particularly poignant moment was the participation of 86-year-old Bayavanda Saraswathi Poovaiah from Hysodlur village near Hudikeri, who arrived in a wheelchair to express her unwavering support.

Adding to the cultural vibrancy of the event, women from T. Shettigeri Kodava Samaja's Pommakkada Koota and the Sambhrama Women's Cultural Centre performed traditional folk dances, celebrating Kodava heritage.

Yesterday, the march covered a 16-km stretch, ending at T. Shettigeri and today, it is scheduled to reach Ponnampet in the evening. Notably, the march is a self-driven effort to unite Kodavas and Kodava speaking communities, setting aside past differences to secure a collective future.

MCC Commissioner on surprise city rounds

(Continued from page 1)

With Swachh Survekshan 2025 fast approaching, Asif directed the staff to prioritise proper waste disposal, ensuring it is done in a scientific and effective manner. He referred to Indore's model — India's Cleanest City for multiple years — as an example, where 100 percent waste segregation and zero waste on streets have been achieved through active co-operation between officers and the public.

He also urged local Ward teams to continuously raise awareness, educating residents and Pourakarmikas about their responsibility in waste segregation and collection.

Additionally, Asif issued directives to shops, tea, and juice vendors to refrain from using plastic cups and glasses. He highlighted that each of these businesses contribute four to five kilograms of plastic waste daily, which ends up on the streets and in landfills.

He instructed health officers to inspect individual shops and assess their practices in serving tea or coffee. The Commissioner stressed the need for strict warnings to encourage the use of reusable glass or steel cups instead of plastic.

During his inspections, Asif urged the jurisdictional engineers to expedite pending road and drainage works to avoid public inconvenience. While inspecting development work near JSS Hospital and Agrahara, Asif questioned the delay, noting that the road had been dug over a month ago without completion. MCC Deputy Commissioner (Dev.) K.J. Sindhu, Executive Engineer Mahesh, Water Works Executive Engineer Shilpa and Assistant Executive Engineer Chethan were present during the inspection.

Sub-Urban Bus Stand: Samithi intensifies opposition

(Continued from page 1)

Ravishastri suggested that instead of the move, the Government should utilise the 4 acres of land next to People's Park and the 5 acres near the Government Guest House on B.N. Road, which have been lying unused.

He also proposed constructing flyovers and underpasses in the area to ease traffic congestion, which is worsened by haphazard parking, especially by autorickshaws.

He further argued that building a new bus stand at Bannimantap would be a waste of public funds. By better utilising the existing bus stands at Sathagali, Naidunagar and Kuvempunagar, traffic near the current stand could be reduced, rendering the need for a new bus stand unnecessary for the next 25 years.

The Samithi members have asked the Government to have a long-term planning instead of succumbing to short-term goals. The bus stand, if shifted to Bannimantap will clog the area further and it will be impossible to enter the city areas for regular commuters and tourists.

Samithi Convenor and Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda supported the Samithi's stance, suggesting that buses for routes like Nanjangud, Bannur, T. Narasipur and H.D. Kote could operate from the Naidunagar, Sathagalli and Kuvempunagar bus stands to reduce pressure on KSRTC Suburban Bus Stand.

The press meet was attended by Samithi Vice-Presidents K.B. Lingaraju, B.S. Prashanth, D. Srihari, Ravikumar and Secretary C.A. Jayakumar, who also represented various trading bodies like Mysuru Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mysore Travel Association, Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, Federation of Organisations and Associations of Mysore and others.

Woes of bus commuters

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (MTY&DM)- The members of the public and daily commuters, however, have their own suggestions on the issue of shifting of the Sub- Urban Bus Stand to Bannimantap.

While several of them said they want the Bus Stand for long distance and Inter-State routes only to be shifted to the new location at Bannimantap and that the existing one be retained for operation of buses to short distance routes and destinations in neighbouring districts of Mysuru such as Mandya, Hassan, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu, some other travellers said that all the three Bus Stands (new one, existing Sub-Urban and City Bus Stands) be linked with each other so as to benefit the large number of daily commuters.

Noting that about 20-25 KSRTC buses enter the Bus Stand on an average everyminute from the two sides — one from Bengaluru side (Five-Light Circle side) and the other from Hardinge Circle side, they said that this has resulted in buses facing parking issues, posing difficulties for boarding and alighting of passengers.

They demanded that the operation of buses be streamlined and networked from all the three Bus Stands so as not to cause inconvenience to passengers with the buses lining up on the busy Bengaluru-Nilgiri Road for long duration inconveniencing other motorists.

Parking problem

Time and again the problems faced by vehicle-users, particularly four-wheelers in parking their vehicles at KSRTC Sub-Urban Bus Stand is brought to the notice of authorities concerned but it seems like nobody is bothered.

Also there is no parking provided opposite the bus stand. Passengers coming with luggage are facing severe problems and even just to park for a while and make the passenger sit in bus and see-off is also not possible, for this reason.

It is high time that either the District Minister or the MP, or someone concerned should bestow their attention and provide parking space for cars.

India emerging as global hub for story-telling: Union Minister

'Paridrishya' concludes; receives 3,123 short films, documentaries from 109 countries

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan (in white shirt and dhoti) seen with winners of 'Paridrishya,' a two-day international short film and documentary festival. Others seen are (sitting from left) Mysuru Cinema Society Secretary Padmavathi S. Bhat, President Dr. Chandrashekhar and actor Sunil Puranik.

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (MK&BCT)- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, lauded India's rich story-telling heritage and the growing global recognition of Indian cinema. "India has become a global hub for story-telling, with epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata capturing worldwide attention," he said.

Speaking at the valedictory and award distribution ceremony of 'Paridrishya,' a two-day international short film and documentary festival organised by the Mysuru Cinema Society at Cauvery Auditorium of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) in city, Dr. Murugan highlighted India's achievements in the creative economy on the global stage.

Dr. Murugan announced the upcoming Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit, set to take place this year to further support media development and cement India's position as a global leader in the creative economy. He emphasised that the summit would serve as a major platform for the Asian media, gaming and social networking sectors, with a strong focus on nurturing young film-makers. He also revealed that Hollywood post-production work is now being established in Bengaluru and other cities across India, marking a significant milestone for the country's entertainment industry.

Government support for film industry

The Minister stated that the Central Government, through the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), is actively working to elevate India's entertainment industry to a global level. To facilitate this, a single-window clearance system has been introduced for film shooting permissions, ensuring a swift approval process.

Additionally, subsidies for domestic filming have been rolled out to encourage productions within the country. Furthering its commitment to the creative sector, the Government will soon establish the National School of AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) in Mumbai, aiming to bolster India's standing in this rapidly growing industry.

'Paridrishya', growing global platform

Dr. Murugan praised the Mysuru Cinema Society and the Paridrishya Film Festival, commending its role in providing a significant platform for film-makers. Since its inception in 2022, the festival has witnessed exponential growth.

This year, the festival received an impressive 3,123 short films and documentaries from 109 countries, including 985 from India, 413 from Iran, 138 from Spain, 137 from France, 108 from Brazil, 99 from China, 91 from Indonesia, 88 from Turkey, 82 from the USA and 81 from Italy.

Additionally, 73 Kannada short films and documentaries were featured. Awards were presented in 26 categories to the winning entries. The Union Minister also highlighted the International Film Festival in Goa, where 100 young talents will be given encouragement and support to advance their careers in cinema.

Prominent personalities including entrepreneur Dr. M. Jagannath Shenoy, actor Sunil Puranik, Mysuru Cinema Society President Dr. Chandrashekhar and Secretary Padmavathi S. Bhat were present at the event.

Sanskrit essential for Sculptural Art and Science: Arun Yogiraj

MLA T.S. Srivatsa (third from left) felicitating sculptor Arun Yogiraj at the valedictory of the two-day 'Karnataka Dakshina Samskruta Kaaveri Pranta Sammelana' held at Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram premises in city yesterday as others look on.

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (PM&DM)- Famed sculptor of city Arun Yogiraj, who sculpted the Balak Ram idol installed at Ayodhya Rama Mandir, said that Sanskrit is a vital part of Sculptural Art and Science.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the valedictory of the two-day 'Karnataka Dakshina Samskruta Kaaveri Pranta Sammelana,' organised by Samskrita Bharati at Ganapathy Ashram premises on Nanjangud Road here yesterday.

Pointing out that his family was associated with stone sculpture for over a century, Arun Yogiraj said it is a virtuosity for his family to have been engaged in Sculpture. "My ancestors have contributed for my achievements. I am not a sculptor created by God. I am only a sculptor by birth. I am only a tool in the sculpting of Bala Rama idol installed at Ayodhya. The biggest turning point of my life came during the sculpture of Shankaracharya statue installed at Kedarnath," he maintained.

Samskruta Bharati All India General Secretary Satyanarayana Bhat in his address, observed that India can be made 'Vishwaguru' through Sanskrit language.

Pointing out that India is ready for providing solutions to all the problems that the world is facing today, Bhat maintained that it is Sanskrit which has created such an atmosphere.

"The youth of the country are yearning to contribute something for Sanskrit. Sanskrit is growing at a fast pace in foreign countries. Sanskrit Literature covers many subjects such as Yoga, Medicine, Technology, Astronomy, Astrology etc., Realising the importance of Sanskrit, even foreigners too are carrying out research using Sanskrit novels and books", Bhat said.

Samskrita Bharati Karnataka Dakshina President Prof. P.N. Shastri said that it is the responsibility of every *Karyakarta* to protect *Sanatana Dharma*. Noting that great epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata and also Vedas are in Sanskrit, he said, as such, everyone should learn Sanskrit and teach the language to others too.

K.R. MLA T.S. Srivatsa said that knowledge of Sanskrit is vital for studying the ancient culture of the country. "Everyone should have social concerns. It is important to note that both the stone and the sculptor of Ayodhya Bala Rama idol were from Mysuru district. With this, the richness of Mysuru's history and culture, has spread far and wide," the MLA said with pride.

Sculptor Arun Yogiraj was felicitated on the occasion.

Samskrita Bharati Karnataka Dakshina office-bearers Gururao Kulkarni, A.M. Bhaskar and others were present.

Resolutions passed at the Sammelana

- Introducing Sanskrit as an optional subject, if not a compulsory subject, in Schools and Colleges.
- Appointment of Sanskrit teachers in all schools.
- Establishment of Sanskrit Academy.
- Promotion of Sanskrit writers and teachers.
- Prominence for Sanskrit research, re-introduction of Kannada Pandit exam, re-introduction of Sanskrit studies as a subject in Kannada and Telugu M.A. courses as in the past.
- Conduct of simple Sanskrit exams, teaching of Subhashita and Sanskrit Shlokas as moral lessons in at least two classes a week.
- Providing basic facilities for Sanskrit Pathashala students and distribution of free text books.
- Formation of Sanskrit Consultative Committee for carrying out activities connected with language.

'30 percent graduates across globe jobless for want of expertise, skill'

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (BLU&DM)- Selva Jayaraman, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Business Integra, USA, said that skills and expertise are key for securing jobs.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 17th Graduates Day of JSS College for Women held at Navajyothi auditorium in Saraswathipuram here recently.

Pointing out that technology plays a vital role in the nation's growth and development, Selva Jayaraman said that Independent India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said this when he took office post-independence.

"About 30 percent graduates in the entire world are jobless today for want of necessary skills or expertise in a particular field. As such, it is important that young graduates realise the importance of acquiring skills and practical experience apart from excelling in academics. Technology is developing at a fast pace in India today. In this backdrop, it can be said that the increase in the number of IITs and other professional colleges is a good development. Students must understand that failure is the stepping stone to success. As such, the students should not be disappointed at failures and must keep on trying to achieve their set goals," he noted. He also shared his experiences on the difficult life that he led in the past and the way he became a successful entrepreneur in USA.

As many as 653 students of various courses received their degrees on the occasion.

College student D. Tanushree received 'Dr. Muniyamma Endowment Gold Medal' instituted by former Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Muniyamma, for securing highest marks in graduation. Also, the following toppers of different Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Courses were presented Medals:

BA: K.J. Sanjana, M.B. Devika, H.S. Sahana; **B.Sc.:** Tanushree, B. Deeksha, L. Chethana; **B.Com.:** N. Apeksha, N.S. Namratha, H.S. Ramya; **BBA:** S.J. Bhavana, H.R. Lakshmi, Chandana Kumari, G.P. Indu; **BCA:** M.M. Deepthi, C. Jyothi, N.S. Jayashree.

MA: D. Divya, M. Parvathamma; **M.Com.:** P.K. Chaitra, R. Maheshwari; **M.Sc:** H.G. Radhika, B. Roja.

JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, College Education Division Director Prof. R. Mugeshappa, College Principal Dr. Rechanna, Controller of Examinations M.M. Swamy and others were present.

Workshop on 'Karnataka Irrigation (Amendment) Act, 2024'

New rules soon to prevent illegal tapping of river, canal waters

K. Vishwanath Reddy, Special Officer to Dy.CM, inaugurating the workshop in city as others look on.

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (MTY&DM)- The Water Resources Department recently conducted a workshop for officials on various provisions of the Karnataka Irrigation (Amendment) Act, 2024, which will come into effect in due course.

Inaugurating the workshop organised at Mysuru Builders Charitable Trust in Vishweshwaranagar here recently, K. Vishwanath Reddy, Special Officer to Dy.CM D.K. Shivakumar, instructed the Department personnel to apprise themselves of the provisions of the Act and take measures to crack down on illegal or unauthorised use of water from canals, rivers, lakes, etc. for irrigation purpose.

He pointed out that the Govt. amended Karnataka Irrigation Act, 1965 (Karnataka Act 16 of 1965) to prevent illegal tapping of water and ensure that water reaches the end user. Stating that the amended Act has been given consent by the Governor, Reddy said, the amended rules and the provisions of the Act will be implemented within some weeks.

"As per the provisions of the amended Act, many irregularities like siphoning off water from canals can be prevented and this will help farmers in the tail-end region. The objective of the workshop is to apprise the Department officials and staff of the various provisions of the amended Act," he said.

A draft amendment was prepared in consultation with 14 other Departments before it was finally approved and tabled in the Assembly, after which the Council got Governor's nod, he added.

Technical Advisor to Deputy CM, K. Jayaprakash, spoke about the salient features of the amended Act and reviewed the provisions under the Act, while Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited Secretary M.S. Girish and Karnataka State Law University Assistant Professor Dr. Sunil Hegde spoke about legal issues (Para Judicial functioning).

Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) Chief Engineer R.L. Venkatesh, Irrigation Department Chief Engineer B.N. Phaniraj, Joint Secretary of Water Resources Department Sujatha L. Jadhav, Karnataka Engineering Research Station (KERS) Director K.G. Mahesh, Hemavathi Project Chief Engineer G.C. Manjunath, Minor Irrigation Superintending Engineer (SE) Prashanth B. Gadadanappagol & CADA Administrative Officer Shivamahadevaiah were present.

Set a clear aim to achieve: SP N. Vishnuvardhana

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (MTY&BS)- Superintendent of Police (SP) N. Vishnuvardhana has advised the aspirants of banking jobs to set an aim to achieve, which is very essential and focus on the same by making continuous efforts.

He was speaking after inaugurating the coaching camp for aspirants of banking jobs conducted by Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Competitive Exams Coaching Centre, here recently.

SP Vishnuvardhana said, more than any position, human values should be imbibed, which is important. Be disciplined, have respect and love towards the elders; only then, one can achieve anything in life, he said.

Take all the recruitment exams like banking, UPSC, KPSC and other exams. Like the adage 'Prayatnam Sarva Sadhanam', the efforts will bear fruits, one or the other day, he said.

Citing his own example, SP Vishnuvardhana said "I had an aim since my school days and started working towards achieving it. My father was a Police Officer, whom I adored as a model and centred my focus on reaching the aim and eventually joined the Police Department."

"After joining the service, one should not ignore their parents and never forget that 'Public Service Is Our Aim," advised SP Vishnuvardhana.

Vice-Chancellor of KSOU Prof. Sharanappa V. Halse said, the students should sharpen their intellectual ability and be agile in their work.

KSOU Registrar Prof. K.B. Praveena, who wished good luck to the candidates appearing for coaching, suggested them to be perseverant to reach the shore of success.

Dean of Study Centre Prof. Ramanatham Naidu, Finance Officer Prof. Niranjan Raj, Coordinator Jainahalli Sathyanarayana Gowda, Siddesh Honnur, Ganesh K.G. Koppal and others were present.

Vatal holds 'Onake' protest against microfinance firms

Mysuru, Feb. 3 (GA&BCT)- Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj staged a unique protest against microfinance companies at Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Circle (Hardinge Circle) in Mysuru yesterday, wielding a pestle (Onake in Kannada) as a symbol of resistance. Several others in the protests too held pestles.

Speaking later, he demanded the immediate cancellation of unauthorised microfinance firms operating in the State and called for the appointment of retired Judges to investigate their activities. He warned that if strict action is not taken against these companies, a massive protest and a Karnataka bandh would be inevitable.

Nagaraj urged the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to crack down on microfinance companies and put an end to their harassment of borrowers. He demanded that lenders stop locking houses and intimidating families and called for Rs. 1 crore compensation for the families of borrowers who died by suicide due to financial harassment.

Highlighting the exploitative interest rates, he stated that microfinance companies often collect more in interest than the principal amount itself. He insisted that the use of goons for intimidation must end and called for a high-level investigation into the deaths and distress caused by predatory lending.

10-year jail term for loan sharks

Karnataka to crack down on money-lenders charging exorbitant interest rates

Bengaluru, Feb. 3 (BCT)- In a decisive move to curb the harassment of borrowers by microfinance institutions and money-lenders, the Karnataka Government is set to enforce stricter regulations, including a 10-year prison term for charging exorbitant interest rates.

The Department of Co-operation is preparing amendments to existing laws to impose severe penalties on money-lenders, pawn-brokers, and unauthorised financial institutions exploiting borrowers.

Currently, the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Excessive Interest Act, 2004, provides for a maximum sentence of three years, but the Government plans to increase it to 10 years, along with a fine exceeding Rs. 1 lakh.

Amendment Bill

Co-operation Minister K.N. Rajanna emphasised that the Government will strictly enforce existing laws while introducing new provisions to curb harassment. He has already held discussions with officials regarding the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Excessive Interest (Amendment) Bill, which will be presented in the upcoming Legislative Session.

Under the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961, borrowers can deposit the remaining loan amount, including interest, in a competent Court, which will compel lenders to respond within 15 days. The Court can then adjust excessive interest, order loan settlements, and even return forcibly taken property.

Additionally, if a borrower dies by suicide due to harassment by lenders, the lender will be held criminally responsible. The current penalty of a three-year jail term and a Rs. 30,000 fine for violators is also set to be significantly increased.

Draft Ordinance ready

Meanwhile, Law Minister H.K. Patil announced that a draft Ordinance to regulate microfinance companies has been prepared and sent to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for approval. Once cleared, it will be forwarded to the Governor for final approval.

Speaking to reporters in Gadag, Patil criticised microfinance institutions for inhumane loan recovery methods, which have pushed many borrowers into distress. The Ordinance aims to curb such harassment, ensuring better protection for borrowers.

The Government intends to strengthen legal provisions and by introducing an Ordinance, Karnataka is set to crack down on predatory lending practices and provide relief to borrowers suffering under unfair interest rates and aggressive loan recovery tactics.

Bird Census at Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary

253 bird species recorded

120 members in four teams conduct census for two days

Chamarajanagar, Feb. 3 (SS &KS) - Volunteers and Forest Department personnel have recorded a total of 253 bird species during the first-ever bird census that took place at Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary on Feb. 1 and 2.

Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, which is spread across 949.496 sq. kms, includes seven forest ranges including in Hanur and Kollegal taluks. This forest region comprises hillocks and one can see semi-hard, dry forest, dry arid forest and scrub forest in this region.

This wildlife sanctuary, which houses various wild animals including elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, wild boars, bears, foxes, bisons and wild dogs among other wild animals, has a huge population of birds and hence for the first time a bird census was conducted.

For the first-ever bird census, over 500 participants volunteered for the survey, out of which 120 were shortlisted based on expertise in birding. All participants were divided into groups of 3-4 people. Across the division, 40 tracks of 3-4 km each were selected which covered the diverse habitats across the wildlife division. Each group was allotted one track for birding.

Each group conducted three birding sessions along with nocturnal birding. At the end of bird survey, around 253 species of birds were identified by the participants. Apart from commonly found birds, participants recorded rare bird species such as White Naped Tit, White Rumped Vulture, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Crested Serpent Eagle etc.

While women participants were accommodated in Forest Inspection Bungalows, male participants were accommodated in Anti-Poaching Camps in the interior of forests.

Eight-year-old girl allegedly sexually assaulted in Mandya

Mandya, Feb. 3 (KS)- A disturbing incident has been reported in Mandya, where three miscreants allegedly lured an eight-year-old girl with a piece of cake, took her to a school, threatened her with a knife and assaulted her before fleeing, according to the Police.

The incident took place on Friday within the Central Police limits of Mandya. The Police have filed a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) and initiated a search for the suspects, who are currently absconding. The victim has been admitted to Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) for medical treatment.

After the assault, the girl initially remained silent. However, on Feb. 1, when her relatives noticed ongoing stomach pain, she revealed the assault. Police authorities have gathered separate statements from the girl and her family as part of investigation.

Speaking to the media near MIMS Hospital, Mandya Superintendent of Police (SP) Mallikarjun Baladandi stated that there are inconsistencies between the statements given by the girl and her parents.

He mentioned that a woman Police Officer is handling the investigation and the Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) are providing counselling. However, the girl has not been able to provide consistent details regarding the suspects.

The SP also stated that the girl has mentioned the involvement of three boys and a medical examination is being conducted to help establish the facts. The investigation is ongoing and authorities are working to uncover the truth.

WORD OF THE DAY

Presage

Pronunciation: PRESS-ij (Verb)
Meaning: To presage something is to give or be a sign that it will happen in the future. Presage is a formal synonym of foreshadow, foretell and predict.
Origin: Although sages, being known for their great wisdom, are sometimes believed to possess the ability to predict the future, there is no connection between the noun sage and the verb presage, which means — as you've likely foreseen — "to foretell or predict." While sage comes from the Latin verb sapere ("to be wise"), presage comes instead from a different Latin source: the adjective praesagus, a combination of the prefix prae and sagus, meaning "prophetic." Presage entered English first as a noun referring to an omen, that is, something that foreshadows or portends a future event. A couple of centuries later it was joined by the verb, which is used for the action of foreshadowing, as in "the current economic slowdown could presage another recession," and may apply to suggesting a coming event or indicating its likelihood.
Example: "What we're really looking for are handsome, vigorous chickens who do well in cold climes. ... Adding birds of different breeds presaged an important change in our understanding: now that it was easier to tell birds apart, the distinct personalities of individuals began to reveal themselves more clearly." — Sy Montgomery, What the Chicken Knows: A New Appreciation of the World's Most Familiar Bird, 2024.

THE ODD WORD

Philophobia

Fear of love.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

As Cool as a Cucumber

Meaning: The phrase "As Cool as a Cucumber" means to be very calm, with no worries. Someone who is not affected by pressure.
Origin: The meaning of the word "Cool" in the phrase doesn't mean having a low temperature, on the contrary, it means assured and composed. The phrase was first recorded in a poem by the British poet John Gay 'New Song on New Similies' in 1732: "Cool as a cucumber could see the rest of womankind."
Example: John — "It's Beckham with the ball, do you think he'll score? Ron — Look at him, he's as cool as a cucumber, he'll score with no problem."

QUOTE BOX

Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye. **—Helen Keller**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

HAPPYEVER

Answer: Happy ever after.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

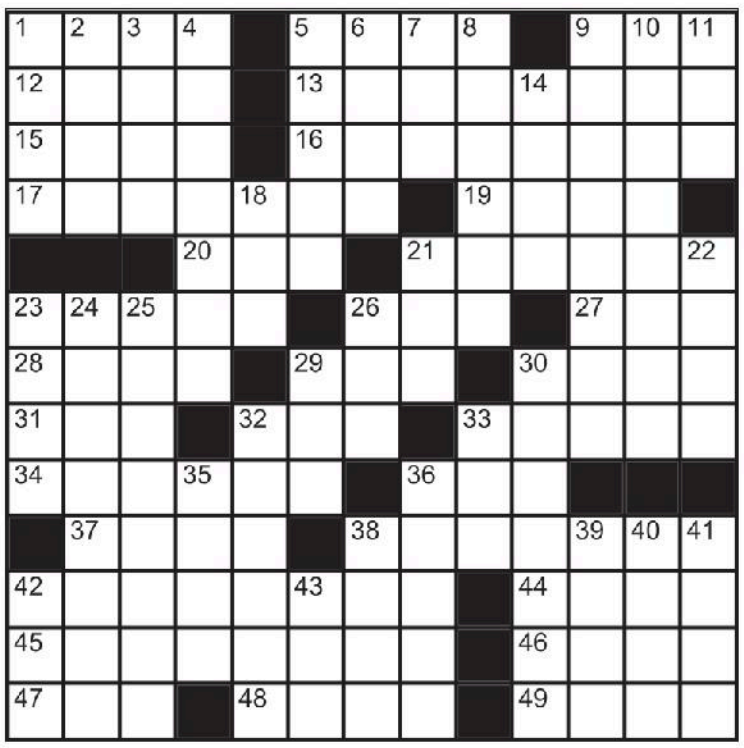
1 Journey far on foot
5 Health resorts
9 ___ aside : abandon or reject?
12 Breathing sound
13 Five ___ __ : four, arithmetically speaking ? (5,3)
15 This one's __ __ : I'll pay the bill? (2,2)
16 Unequivocal or unambiguous
17 Show or exhibit
19 Old fashioned road transport still used in Calcutta
20 Sea for the French
21 Continental person of days gone by - "Trance" anagram?
23 Meeting place
26 Not wet
27 Native or inhabitant as a suffix
28 Appear
29 Calendar square
30 Sufferings or troubles
31 Spanish gold
32 Get into
33 German surrealist
34 The large claw of a crab
36 The Old Man and The ___ : Ernest Hemingway's famous novel?
37 Undercover cop, in short
38 Assisting
42 Feeble-minded, idiotic or moronic
44 Of little value
45 Spanish queen who was Columbus's patroness
46 A case for needles
47 Master of Science in Linguistics, deg.
48 English batsman ___ Morgan
49 Dare, old style English

DOWN

1 Stepped
2 Indian queen
3 Tall, stately trees
4 Fail to speak or communicate etc when expected to? (4,3)
5 Defame
6 Fairy; esp : a gay mischievous sprite
7 Actual Navigation Performance
8 Sweltering
9 Site, spot or destination
10 Enlivens, gives life to
11 So far
14 Bear, beget or father
18 Ship's sheltered side
21 Weep
22 Where birds lay
23 Brandy letters
24 Weirdness, strangeness; quality of being supernatural
25 Of a newborn child
26 Author __ Brown
29 Black beetle
30 ___ up : made into a parcel?
32 Edict
33 Long and slippery fish
35 An easily irritable person ?
36 Portable chair
38 Prefix with port
39 Greek vowel
40 French word for "we"
41 Gravel or fortitude?
42 Border
43 Dead Letter Off.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

O	R	C	■	L	A	M	B	■	E	S	A	I
S	E	C	■	I	D	O	L	■	N	E	E	D
S	T	I	L	E	T	T	O	■	T	A	R	O
A	D	I	E	U	■	H	O	B	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	T	H	■	D	O	M	I	N	O
R	A	W	D	E	A	L	■	U	B	O	A	T
A	N	A	■	N	I	X	O	N	■	T	A	I
F	I	R	M	A	■	I	N	D	I	A	N	S
A	L	M	O	N	D	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	T	E	E	■	R	O	M	E	O
K	H	A	N	■	E	L	S	I	N	O	R	E
E	T	R	E	■	M	I	L	E	■	A	O	N
A	C	E	D	■	S	A	Y	S	■	N	S	E



SUDOKU

8								3
	7		5			9		
1				7	3			
	8	6					1	
	2		8		7		6	
	9					4	5	
			4	6				5
		7			8		2	
9								6

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	6	5	9	1	7	4	8
1	7	5	8	4	2	6	9	3
8	9	4	6	3	7	5	2	1
3	6	9	2	8	5	4	1	7
5	8	2	1	7	4	9	3	6
7	4	1	3	6	9	2	8	5
4	5	7	9	1	3	8	6	2
9	1	8	7	2	6	3	5	4
6	2	3	4	5	8	1	7	9

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

FH ZLG PXI'K HQQN X RGINJQN BQLBUQ,

KRQI HQQN CGTK LIQ.

TODAY'S CLUE: I EQUALS N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  Marco (K) - 4 Shows; *Marco (Ta)* - 1 Show
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Begur Colony (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  Marco (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Royal (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Gana (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Ittige Goodinalli Raja Rani (K) - 2 Shows; *Alle Draw Alle Bahumana* - 2 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Deva (H) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Deva (H) - 3 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — **Ph: 2452958**
  Madha Gaja Raja (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Gana (K)	(S-1)	10.10 am, 4.10 pm
Royal (K)	(S-1)	1.05 pm
Sky Force (H)	(S-1)	7.05 pm; (S-3) 4.15 pm
Choo Mantar (K)	(S-1)	9.50 pm; (S-2) 7.05 pm
Mufasa: The Lion King (E-3D)	(S-2)	10.50 am
Nodidavaru Enanthare (K)	(S-2)	1.15 pm
Rudra Garuda Purana (K)	(S-2)	4.10 pm
Oru Jaathi Kathakam (Ma)	(S-2)	10 pm
Hyena (K)	(S-3)	10.20 am
Kaadu Male (K)	(S-3)	1.30 pm
#ParuParvathy (K)	(S-3)	7 pm
Deva (H)	(S-4)	9.50 am, 3.50 pm 7 pm, 10.10 pm
Max (K)	(S-4)	1 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Royal (K)	(S-1)	1.10 pm
Kaadu Male (K)	(S-1)	4 pm
#ParuParvathy (K)	(S-1)	6.10 pm
Forest (K)	(S-1)	9.10 pm; (S-3) 1.30 pm
Beguru Colony (K)	(S-2)	6.25 pm
Gana (K)	(S-3)	6.45 pm
	(S-4)	1.05 pm, 9 pm
Nodidavaru Enanthare (K)	(S-4)	3.45 pm
Choo Mantar (K)	(S-4)	6.20 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Sky Force (H)	:	9.50 am, 1.30 pm, 4.10 pm, 6.50, 9.30 pm
Gana (K)	:	10.05 am, 12.55 pm, 7.05 pm
Nodidavaru Enanthare (K)	:	10.05 am, 6.55 pm
Deva (H)	:	10.15 am, 12.30 pm, 3.45, 7 pm, 10.15 pm
Companion (E)	:	10.20 am, 3.55 pm, 9.15 pm
Max (K)	:	10.50 am
Royal (K)	:	12.40 pm
Ramayana (E)	:	1 pm
Kaadu Male (K)	:	1.35 pm
Forest (K)	:	3.45 pm
#ParuParvathy (K)	:	3.50 pm
Choo Mantar (K)	:	4 pm, 9.50 pm
Marco (K)	:	6.15 pm
Ponman (Ma)	:	6.45 pm
Oru Jaathi Jaathakam (Ma)	:	9.30 pm
Kudumbasthan (Ta)	:	10 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Deva (H)	:	9.30 am, 12.45 pm, 4 pm, 7.15, 10.30 pm
Ramayana (E)	:	9.35 am, 3.30 pm
Ramayana (H)	:	9.30 pm
Gana (K)	:	10.35 am, 4.10 pm, 9.45 pm
Sky Force (H)	:	10.50 am, 1.30 pm, 7.05 pm, 10.30 pm
Choo Mantar (K)	:	12.35 pm, 7.35 pm
Forest (K)	:	1.30 pm
Royal (K)	:	4.30 pm
Begur Colony (K)	:	6.25 pm

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 3)

- **New Crafts:** Silk India-2025, an opulent show of cool cotton handloom products, ethnic and traditional silk, Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, **up to 8.30 pm.**
- **Elder Citizens Council:** Monthly series of Health Talk, Dr. B. Gurubasavaraja, former Chief Medical Officer, JSS Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Mysuru, delivers lecture on 'Lifestyle of disorders - A comprehensive understanding' for senior citizens, Council President Dr. H.M. Nagaraju presides, Saraswathi Samudaya Bhavana, Jayalakshmipuram, **5 pm.**
- **Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust:** 'Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama,' Vocal concert by Anoor Phanindra Sharma, Instrumental support by Keshav Mohan Kumar, Vikram Bharadwaj and Shreenidhi R. Koundinya, Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, 3rd Stage, Gokulam, **6 pm to 8.30 pm.**
- **Chinmaya Mission, Mysuru:** 'Jnana Yagna' discourse in Kannada, on Shree Adi Shankaracharya's 'Shivaananda Lahari' by Pujya Swami Krutaatmanandaji, Rajatha Sabhaa Mantapa, Sri Ganapathi Temple, # 279, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, I Block, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm to 8 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 4)

- **Mysuru Yoga Okkuta:** 24th anniversary of Okkuta and Rathasaptami celebrations — 108 Mass Surya Namaskara, Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple premises, Mysore Palace North Gate, **5.30 am.** [Mob: 94811-70530 or 98860-83118]
- **ClearMedi Radiant Hospital:** World Cancer Day — walkathon to create awareness on Cancer — flagging off from the Hospital in Vijayanagar 3rd Stage and will pass through Gen. K.S. Thimayya Road, Vijayanagar Sports Club Road, Ambarish Road, Kalidasa Road, back to Gen. Thimayya Road and will culminate at the Hospital, **7 am.** [Ph: 0821-2336666 or 2411667]
- **District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Women and Child Development Department and Department for the Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens:** District-level sports meet for specially-abled persons, Chamundi Vihar Stadium, Nazarbad, **8.30 am onwards.** [Ph: 0821- 2564179 or Mob: 81230-40620]
- **Department of Kannada - St. Philomena's College and Navakarnataka Publications, Mysuru:** Three-day Mega Book Fair, College Rector Dr. Lourde Prasad Joseph inaugurates the Book Fair; Talk on 'Doodle Google Uncle' by Author Bedre Manjunath and releasing of the book 'Panchaboothagala Raasayanika Vaividhya' co-authored by Prof. B.S. Jayaprakash and Prof. R. Venugopal; College Principal Dr. Ravi J.D. Saldanha presides, Department of Kannada Head A.T. Sadebose and Navakarnataka Publications Mysuru Branch Manager N.K. Satyaranayana will be present on the occasion, College premises, Bannimantap, **10 am onwards.**
- **Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust:** 'Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama,' Vocal concert by Vid. Dileep Simha with instrumental support by C.V. Shruthi, Deepika Srinivasan and K.M. Likhith, Bidaram Krishnappa's Prasanna Seetharama Mandira, N.S. Road, **6 pm to 8.30 pm.**
- **Chinmaya Mission, Mysuru:** Chanting of Shiva bhajans and stotrams, **6 pm to 6.30 pm;** 'Jnana Yagna' discourse in Kannada, on Shree Adi Shankaracharya's 'Shivaananda Lahari' by Pujya Swami Krutaatmanandaji, Rajatha Sabhaa Mantapa, Sri Ganapathi Temple, # 279, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, I Block, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm and 8 pm.**

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

Deva (H)	:	9.30 am, 10.30 am, 12.45 pm 4 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Gana (K)	:	10 am, 12.55 pm, 9.30 pm
Sky Force (H)	:	11.05 am, 1.45 pm, 4.25, 7.40 pm 10 pm
Ramayana (H)	:	1.45 pm
Kaadu Male (K)	:	3.40 pm
Royal (K)	:	4.40 pm
#ParuParvathy (K)	:	6.15 pm
Choo Mantar (K)	:	7.05 pm
Oru Jaathi Jaathakam (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

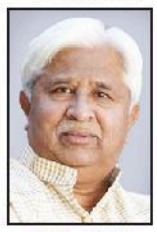
Sky Force (H)	:	10 am, 4.35 pm, 7.40 pm
Deva (H)	:	10.05 am, 1.20 pm, 4.25 pm 7.15 pm, 9.40 pm, 10.30 pm
Gana (K)	:	10.15 am, 7.05 pm
Oru Jaathi Jaathakam (Ma)	:	10.35 am, 6.55 pm
Sankranthiki Vasthunam (Te)	:	12.40 pm
Begur Colony (K)	:	1.10 pm
Ravutha (K)	:	1.20 pm
#ParuParvathy (K)	:	3.40 pm
Ittige Goodinalli Raja Rani (K)	:	4.15 pm
Ponman (Ma)	:	10 pm
Rudhra Garuda Purana (K)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

Vidhana Soudha to be transformed into Tourist spot

International Travel Expo to be held from Feb. 26 to 28

Bengaluru, Feb. 3 (KMS & DM)- Karnataka's seat of power 'Vidhana Soudha,' which is known for its architectural beauty, is all set for transformation as a tourist spot.



H.K. Patil

Speaking after releasing the Brochure and Logo of the second edition of Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) at Vidhana Soudha here yesterday, Tourism Minister H.K. Patil said the 3-day KITE event would be held in Bengaluru from Feb. 26 to 28. Pointing out that the Tourism Department is gearing up for KITE, he said that the participants will be allowed entry to the Vidhana Soudha for viewing the galleries, corridors and halls.

"More than 150 exhibitors from 25 countries, over 400 tourism promoters and other stakeholders are expected to take part in the event. Several hotels and restaurants have come forward to provide lodging at a discounted price for the participants," Patil said adding that it is hoped that the event will bring a fortune for the tourism industry in the State. He further said that a number of MoUs are expected to be signed on tourism investments and promotion during the three-day event.

State Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said that measures will be taken for attracting huge investments for tapping of tourism potential and promotion of tourism industry in Karnataka.

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